

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02631 262036Z

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 PRS-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 /035 W

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R 261940Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2631

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, MX

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: STATE 063956

1. I SPOKE TO RABASA ON MATTER OF SECRETARY GENERAL RACE. HE SAID MEXICO IS COMMITTED TO GOMEZ BERGES OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IN VIEW OF NEW SPIRIT IN OAS AND NEED TO BRING IN A YOUNGER ELEMENT ALONG WITH NEED TO CULTIVATE THE CARIBBEANS, HE WOULD HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD JOIN THE GROUP SUPPORTING GOMEZ. (HE SAID THIS WITHOUT GIVING ME THE IMPRESSION OF TRUE ENTHUSIASM.)

2. ON MY PROBING FURTHER AS TO MEXICO'S INTENTIONS, RABASA TOLD ME IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SAY WHAT HE WOULD DO ON THE SECOND AND THIRD ROUND OF VOTING. IT WAS CLEAR NOW THAT NEITHER SAPENA NOR GOMEZ HAD SUFFICIENT VOTES. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SAPENA HAD TOLD GOMEZ THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW IF HE FOUND THAT HE COULD NOT WIN DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE ELECTION. HOWEVER, THERE WAS SELF-INTEREST IN ALL OF THE STATEMENTS BEING MADE. FOR MEXICO TO START THINKING NOW OF WHAT ITS VOTE WOULD BE ON THE SECOND ROUND WOULD DESTROY THE POSITION OF ANY CANDIDATE ON THE FIRST ROUND.

3. RABASA SAID THAT PERU HAD APPROACHED MEXICO FOR SUPPORT  
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02631 262036Z

FOR GARCIA BEDOYA SHOULD GOMEZ NOT BE A VIABLE CANDIDATE.

RABASA SAID MEXICO HAD GIVEN NO OFFICIAL REPLY ALTHOUGH HE CONFIDED THAT GOM FOUND THE PERUVIAN CANDIDACY ATTRACTIVE. HE SAID THA ORFILA ALSO WOULD MAKE A FIRST-RATE CANDIDATE. MEXICO WOULD HAVE TO PLAY IT LOOSE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS DURING EARLY DAYS OF OASGA.

4. COMMENT: MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO GOMEZ SEEMS FIRM FOR AT LEAST ONE OR TWO ROUNDS ALTHOUGH I DETECTED NO MORE REAL ENTHUSIASM NOW THAN WHEN I DISCUSSED GOMEZ BERGES' CANDIDACY WITH RABASA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. WHILE GOM HAS NO OFFICIAL COMMITMENT TO AN ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE AND WHILE I BELIEVE THAT RABASA, PROPERLY CULTIVATED, COULD BE BROUGHT TO SUPPORT ORFILA, HIS INSTINCTS AS A MEXICAN FUNCTIONARY (RATHER THAN PURELY PERSONAL) WOULD INCLINE HIM TOWARDS SUPPORTING GARCIA BEDOYA IN VIEW OF THE LATTER'S MORE THIRD WORLD STANCE. INCIDENTALLY, RABASA COMMENTED THAT US WAS DOING EXACTLY THE RIGHT THING IN PLAYING THIS ONE COOL AND THAT IF POSSIBLE WE SHOULD MERELY SAY THAT WE WILL JOIN ANY MAJORITY THAT FORMS ITSELF AROUND A CANDIDATE. JOVA

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